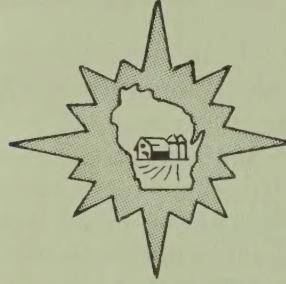


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WISCONSIN *Farm Reporter*

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February 1975

Cream of the News

Wisconsin's milk production in 1974 was slightly below 1973 as fewer milk cows on farms offset a small gain in production per cow.

Led by an increase in milk prices, the index of prices received by Wisconsin farmers as of mid-January was up 2 percent from a month earlier.

The annual inventory of livestock on Wisconsin farms showed cattle numbers at a record high but there were fewer hogs, sheep and lambs, chickens, and turkey breeder hens than a year ago.

Cheese and butter production in the Nation during 1974 was higher than the previous year as cheese increased 8 percent and butter was up 4 percent.

Wholesale prices of dairy products increased from December to January in response to higher support prices for manufacturing grade milk.

Cold storage stocks of meat in the Nation at the end of January were 7 percent below a year earlier.

Feeder pig prices in Wisconsin increased during the past quarter but at an average of \$23.60 in January were \$7.10 below last year.

Weekly estimates for January indicate that butter production in Wisconsin and the Nation will continue above the previous year but output of American cheese will be lower.

Milk prices received by Wisconsin farmers in January are expected to average \$7.71 a hundredweight, up 35 cents from December.

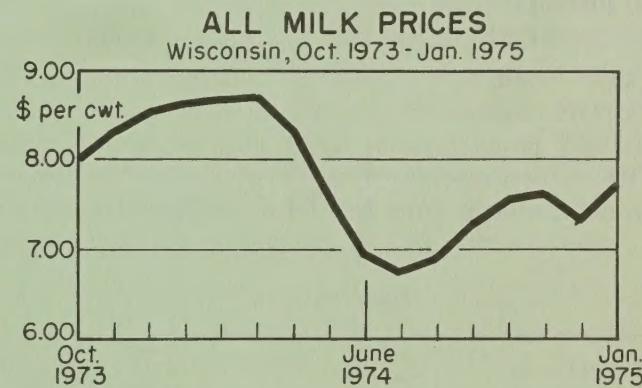
Red meat production in Wisconsin's commercial slaughtering plants during December remained above a year earlier as it has since September 1973.

Cold storage stocks of cheese in the Nation at the end of January were up 31 percent from a year ago but butter stocks had an increase of only 2 percent.

MILK PRICES UP IN JANUARY

Prices received by Wisconsin farmers for all milk sold in January are expected to average \$7.71 a hundredweight, an increase of 35 cents from December. However, the January average price for all milk would be 91 cents under a year ago.

Milk prices for December averaged \$7.36 a hundredweight, down 25 cents from the previous month and \$1.17 below December 1973. Milkfat content averaged 3.88 percent in December compared with 3.83 percent a year earlier.



Wisconsin 3.5 Test Milk Prices 1/

Utilization	Dec. 1973	Nov. 1974	Dec. 1974 2/	Change from last year
		Dollars per cwt.		Percent
Milk for all uses	7.80	6.81	6.64	- 15
Market milk	7.89	7.05	6.95	- 12
Manufacturing milk	7.65	6.44	6.13	- 20
Creameries	7.63	6.46	6.17	- 19
American cheese plants	7.67	6.44	6.11	- 20
Varied products plants	7.67	6.42	6.11	- 20
Federal Order Markets				
Chicago Regional Base Zone . . .	8.39	7.41	7.21	- 14

1/Computed equivalents. 2/Preliminary.

Producers for the Grade A market received an average of \$7.75 a hundredweight for December, a decline of 15 cents from November and 90 cents under December 1973. Manufacturing grade milk, at \$6.74 a hundredweight in December, was 42 cents less than in November and \$1.61 below

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the previous year. The spread between market and manufacturing grade milk was \$1.01 for December compared with 30 cents in December 1973.

Milk Prices 1/

Selected States	November 1974		December price per cwt.			January 1975 price per cwt. 2/
	Average test	Price per cwt.	1973	1974	74/73 change	
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	
Milk for all uses						
Wisconsin	3.91	7.61	8.53	7.36	- 14	7.71
Minnesota	3.77	7.09	8.13	6.80	- 16	6.97
Iowa	3.82	7.33	8.52	7.19	- 16	7.19
New York	3.69	8.65	8.74	8.05	- 8	8.10
California	3.74	8.90	7.82	9.10	+ 16	9.00
United States	3.81	8.44	8.80	8.23	- 6	8.29
Wisconsin utilization						
Market milk	3.92	7.90	8.65	7.75	- 10	xxx
Manufacturing milk	3.89	7.16	8.35	6.74	- 19	xxx
Creameries	3.86	7.12	8.32	6.70	- 19	xxx
Cheese factories	3.89	7.17	8.35	6.74	- 19	xxx
Varied prod. plants	3.89	7.14	8.35	6.72	- 20	xxx

1/Preliminary average buying prices received for milk of average test. They differ from basic buying prices which are for 3.5% milk. 2/Based on preliminary information for milk of average test.

MILK PRODUCTION REMAINS DOWN SLIGHTLY

Milk production on Wisconsin farms during January totaled 1,493 million pounds, slightly under a year ago. The State's milk production has been a little below the previous year for the past three months. January's milk output was up 6 percent seasonally from December, the same increase as a year earlier for that period. Production per cow averaged

Selected States	Milk Production			
	January 1974	January 1975	Change	Revised Jan.-Dec. 1974
			from last year	
		Million pounds	Percent	Million pounds
Wisconsin	1,500	1,493	n. c.	18,362
Minnesota	813	802	- 1	9,382
Iowa	318	308	- 3	3,947
New York	801	821	+ 2	9,822
Pennsylvania	559	568	+ 2	6,971
California	824	843	+ 2	10,601
Other states	4,472	4,466	n. c.	56,331
United States	9,287	9,301	n. c.	115,416

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825 pounds for January, down 10 pounds from January 1974. There were 1,810,000 milk cows on Wisconsin farms in January, an increase of 14,000 from a year ago.

The National milk production during January was slightly above the previous year. Although milk cow numbers were down 1 percent from January, 1974, production per cow showed a gain of 6 pounds. The January milk-feed price ratio was up 4 percent from December but was 16 percent under last year.

BUTTER PRODUCTION TO CONTINUE HIGHER

Weekly estimates indicate that production of butter in Wisconsin and the Nation during January will continue above a year earlier. The Nation's output of butter in January could be 23 percent greater than the previous year. Butter production in December was 29 percent above a year ago. Wisconsin creameries will also churn more butter in January than a year earlier but the increase will not match the 26 percent gain shown in December.

According to weekly estimates, production of American cheese in the Nation during January was about 14 percent below a year ago. December's output was down 11 percent from the previous year. Wisconsin dairy plants made less cheese in January than a year ago and the decline was greater than the 6 percent drop shown in December.

Recent Changes in Butter and Cheese Output

Periods	Butter			American Cheese		
	United States		Wisconsin	United States		Wisconsin
	Production 1974	Change from last year	Change from last year	Production 1974	Change from last year	Change from last year
1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent	Percent	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent
December . . .	89,578	+ 29	+ 26	125,280	- 11	- 6
Jan.-Dec. . . .	952,065	+ 4	+ 7	1,832,133	+ 10	+ 5
Weeks ending 1975:						
Jan. 9 . . .	24,200	+ 28	+ 14	29,800	- 8	- 3
Jan. 16 . . .	21,170	+ 22	+ 14	28,300	- 15	- 16
Jan. 23 . . .	21,900	+ 21	+ 24	29,860	- 16	- 12
Jan. 30 . . .	21,500	+ 20	+ 24	30,400	- 16	- 19
Total	88,770	+ 23	xxx	118,360	- 14	xxx

LESS MEAT IN STORAGE

Cold storage stocks of meat in the Nation at the end of January were 7 percent below a year ago. Beef stocks were down 12 percent and pork stocks were 2 percent under January 31, 1974.

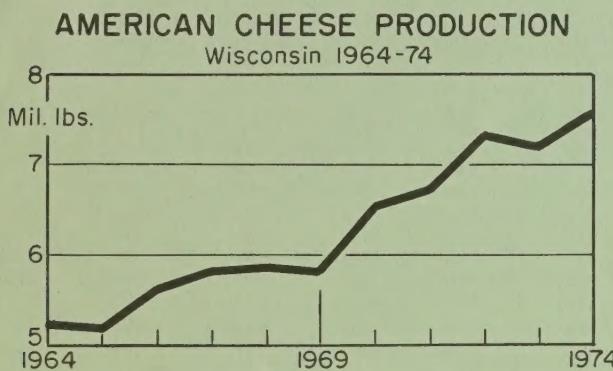
There were 416 million pounds of beef in cold storage at the end of January, an increase of 14 million pounds from a month earlier but more than 54 million pounds below last year.

Pork stocks totaled 294 million pounds on January 31, down 12 million pounds from the previous month and 6 million pounds lower than a year ago.

MORE CHEESE AND BUTTER PRODUCED DURING 1974

Production of cheese and butter in the Nation during 1974 was higher than in 1973. Output of all cheese reached a record high of 2.9 billion pounds for 1974, an increase of 8 percent from the previous year. American cheese production in the Nation during 1974 was 10 percent more than in 1973. Output of Italian cheese in 1974 was up 6 percent from a year earlier. Although Brick and Muenster production showed little change from 1973, Swiss cheese output gained 11 percent and all other varieties increased 2 percent.

Wisconsin American cheese production in 1974 was a record 757 million pounds, 5 percent greater than in 1973. Output of American cheese in Minnesota for 1974 was up



Current Dairy Products Estimates

Item and area	Dec. 1973	Dec. 1974	Jan.-Dec. 1974	Change from last year	
				Dec.	Jan.-Dec.
1,000 pounds					
BUTTER				Percent	
Wisconsin	13,910	17,500	192,210	+ 26	+ 7
Minnesota	17,236	20,700	229,100	+ 20	+ 4
Iowa	3,306	3,500	41,310	+ 6	- 31
Other states	35,077	47,878	489,445	+ 36	+ 7
United States	69,529	89,578	952,065	+ 29	+ 4
CHEESE, AMERICAN				Percent	
Wisconsin	57,305	53,600	757,220	- 6	+ 5
Minnesota	24,589	19,430	261,020	- 21	+ 6
Missouri	5,232	2,925	74,073	- 44	+ 3
Other states	53,924	49,325	739,820	- 9	+ 17
United States	141,050	125,280	1,832,133	- 11	+ 10
CHEESE, MISCELLANEOUS				Percent	
United States				Percent	
Swiss	12,808	13,680	181,910	+ 7	+ 11
Brick and Muenster	5,641	5,571	68,977	- 1	n. c.
Italian	52,714	54,133	601,284	+ 3	+ 6
All other	21,121	19,629	213,632	- 7	+ 2
Total	92,284	93,013	1,065,803	+ 1	+ 6
ALL CHEESE				Percent	
United States	233,334	218,293	2,897,936	- 6	+ 8
OTHER PRODUCTS				Percent	
Cottage Cheese				Percent	
United States				Percent	
Curd 1/	51,256	48,210	679,929	- 6	- 11
Creamed 2/	63,421	64,016	861,818	+ 1	- 10
1,000 gallons					
Ice Cream				Percent	
Wisconsin	1,066	1,100	16,995	+ 3	+ 6
Illinois	3,084	3,450	46,430	+ 12	+ 2
Iowa	558	725	8,980	+ 30	+ 9
Michigan	2,219	2,595	36,455	+ 17	+ 4
Minnesota	1,961	1,750	26,285	- 11	- 15
Other states	41,220	44,010	648,090	+ 7	+ 2
United States	50,108	53,630	783,235	+ 7	+ 1

1/Includes cottage, pot, and bakers' cheese with a milkfat content of less than 4 percent. 2/Includes cheese with a milkfat content of 4 to 19 percent.

6 percent from a year earlier, while Missouri increased 3 percent and all other states had a gain of 17 percent.

Butter production in the Nation during 1974 was 4 percent above 1973 and the first increase in four years. Creameries in Wisconsin produced 7 percent more butter in 1974 than a year earlier. Although Iowa's butter output was 31 percent below 1973, Minnesota was up 4 percent and all other states increased 7 percent.

The Nation's cottage cheese curd production in 1974 was 11 percent below 1973 and output of creamed cottage cheese declined 10 percent. Ice cream production for the Nation during 1974 was up 1 percent from the previous year.

WHOLESALE DAIRY PRICES HIGHER IN JANUARY

Wholesale prices of dairy products increased from December to January. Cheddar cheese in 40 pound blocks averaged about 74½ cents a pound at Wisconsin primary markets in January. This was up more than 2 cents from the previous month but well below the January 1974 price of almost 90 cents a pound.

Swiss cheese, Wisconsin State Brand, averaged over \$1.01 a pound for January. This was nearly 2½ cents more than in December but about 1 cent under a year ago.

The 92-score butter price at New York averaged 67.65 cents a pound during January, up a third of a cent from December but more than 3 cents below January last year.

Wholesale Dairy Prices

Commodity	January 1974	December 1974	January 1975 1/
Butter, 92-score, New York, pound	70.80¢	67.31¢	67.65¢
Cheese, Cheddars, Wisconsin primary markets, 40 lb. blocks, pound 2/	89.92¢	72.62¢	74.79¢
Cheese, Swiss, Wisconsin State Brand, block pound 2/	102.20¢	98.75¢	101.15¢
Evaporated milk, North Central States, case, 48-14½ oz. cans, range	\$10.95-11.51	\$11.90-12.51	\$ - - -
Nonfat dry milk solids, spray, Chicago area, pound	55.13¢	56.74¢	56.73¢

1/Preliminary estimates. 2/Selling prices, f.o.b. at Wisconsin assembly points.

PRICES RECEIVED INDEX HIGHER IN MID-JANUARY

The index of prices received for Wisconsin farm products as of mid-January was up 10 points (2 percent) from a month earlier. However, at 487 percent of the 1910-14 base, the index was 13 percent below January 1974. Showing price increases from December to January were milk, beef, cattle, slaughter cows, sheep, lambs, and turkeys. Crops declined in price as did milk cows, calves, hogs, eggs, and farm chickens.

Steers and heifers averaged \$30.70 a hundredweight as of January 15, up 90 cents from the previous month and the first increase since August 1974. A year ago steers and heifers averaged \$38.50 a hundredweight. Slaughter cows increased 30 cents from December to January but at \$16.80 a hundredweight were \$14.60 below January 1974.

Number of Milk Cows in Herds on Farms, Wisconsin, 1963-74 1/

Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Annual
1,000 head													
1963	2,150	2,150	2,148	2,147	2,146	2,145	2,144	2,143	2,143	2,142	2,141	2,140	2,145
1964	2,140	2,140	2,140	2,140	2,140	2,140	2,139	2,138	2,138	2,138	2,137	2,135	2,139
1965	2,128	2,120	2,110	2,100	2,090	2,080	2,070	2,060	2,050	2,040	2,030	2,020	2,075
1966	2,011	2,003	1,995	1,988	1,981	1,975	1,970	1,965	1,960	1,956	1,952	1,949	1,975
1967	1,946	1,943	1,940	1,937	1,934	1,931	1,928	1,925	1,922	1,919	1,916	1,913	1,930
1968	1,909	1,905	1,900	1,895	1,890	1,885	1,880	1,875	1,869	1,863	1,858	1,853	1,882
1969	1,849	1,846	1,843	1,839	1,836	1,833	1,830	1,827	1,824	1,821	1,818	1,816	1,832
1970	1,815	1,815	1,814	1,814	1,813	1,813	1,812	1,812	1,813	1,813	1,814	1,814	1,814
1971	1,815	1,816	1,817	1,818	1,819	1,821	1,822	1,824	1,826	1,828	1,830	1,832	1,822
1972	1,832	1,832	1,832	1,832	1,832	1,832	1,832	1,831	1,831	1,830	1,829	1,827	1,831
1973	1,825	1,823	1,820	1,817	1,814	1,811	1,808	1,805	1,803	1,801	1,799	1,797	1,810
1974	1,796	1,797	1,798	1,799	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,801	1,803	1,805	1,807	1,809	1,801

1/Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

Milk Production per Cow, Wisconsin, 1963-74 1/

Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Annual
Pounds													
1963	700	665	775	795	880	875	735	660	610	650	630	695	8,670
1964	750	745	840	840	920	885	740	665	620	660	650	735	9,050
1965	785	740	855	860	920	890	775	685	617	630	625	685	9,080
1966	730	690	810	835	900	920	795	725	660	670	660	740	9,140
1967	780	735	820	855	920	925	835	755	690	705	680	740	9,440
1968	785	766	860	880	960	940	846	775	710	715	695	740	9,676
1969	780	745	860	875	975	992	885	810	735	710	700	775	9,853
1970	810	765	890	915	1,000	1,000	905	835	750	766	735	795	10,163
1971	840	795	910	940	1,025	1,005	905	845	770	785	735	790	10,345
1972	835	810	925	940	1,020	1,025	945	870	800	800	739	790	10,500
1973	830	785	910	935	1,000	980	890	820	750	765	730	790	10,189
1974	835	785	900	915	990	975	890	835	775	790	725	780	10,195

1/Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Production on Farms, Wisconsin, 1963-74 1/

Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Annual
Million pounds													
1963	1,505	1,430	1,665	1,707	1,888	1,877	1,576	1,414	1,407	1,392	1,349	1,487	18,597
1964	1,605	1,594	1,798	1,798	1,969	1,894	1,583	1,422	1,326	1,411	1,389	1,569	19,358
1965	1,670	1,569	1,804	1,806	1,923	1,851	1,604	1,411	1,265	1,285	1,269	1,384	18,841
1966	1,468	1,382	1,616	1,660	1,783	1,817	1,566	1,425	1,294	1,311	1,288	1,442	18,052
1967	1,518	1,428	1,591	1,656	1,779	1,786	1,610	1,453	1,326	1,353	1,303	1,416	18,219
1968	1,499	1,459	1,634	1,668	1,814	1,772	1,590	1,453	1,327	1,332	1,291	1,371	18,210
1969	1,442	1,375	1,585	1,609	1,790	1,818	1,620	1,480	1,341	1,311	1,273	1,407	18,051
1970	1,470	1,388	1,614	1,660	1,813	1,813	1,640	1,513	1,360	1,389	1,333	1,442	18,435
1971	1,525	1,444	1,653	1,709	1,864	1,830	1,649	1,541	1,406	1,435	1,345	1,447	18,848
1972	1,530	1,484	1,695	1,722	1,869	1,878	1,731	1,593	1,465	1,464	1,352	1,443	19,226
1973	1,515	1,431	1,656	1,699	1,814	1,775	1,609	1,480	1,352	1,378	1,313	1,420	18,442
1974	1,500	1,411	1,618	1,646	1,782	1,755	1,602	1,504	1,397	1,426	1,310	1,411	18,362

1/Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Milk Production by Months, United States

1972, 1973 and 1974

Month	Milk cows on farms 1/			Milk per cow 2/			Milk production 2/		
	1972	1973	1974	1972	1973	1974	1972	1973	1974
1,000									
January	11,773	11,597	11,267	826	821	824	9,720	9,525	9,287
February	11,760	11,556	11,249	799	773	779	9,391	8,932	8,765
March	11,747	11,518	11,241	890	883	889	10,452	10,176	9,988
April	11,739	11,471	11,229	900	898	910	10,566	10,298	10,122
May	11,721	11,439	11,216	961	957	967	11,268	10,952	10,841
June	11,703	11,404	11,206	935	924	943	10,946	10,532	10,563
July	11,685	11,369	11,205	894	881	905	10,442	10,014	10,139
August	11,672	11,343	11,207	855	837	865	9,978	9,489	9,690
September	11,659	11,316	11,208	809	784	815	9,431	8,877	9,140
October	11,650	11,306	11,199	810	791	815	9,437	8,948	9,125
November	11,639	11,298	11,207	766	760	774	8,911	8,590	8,669
December	11,624	11,293	11,212	805	802	810	9,362	9,052	9,087
Annual	11,698	11,409	11,221	10,250	10,114	10,286	119,904	115,385	115,416

1/Excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/Excludes milk sucked by calves.

CATTLE NUMBERS AT RECORD HIGH

The annual inventory of livestock and poultry on Wisconsin farms revealed that cattle numbers were at a record high but the count of hogs, sheep and lambs, chickens, and turkey breeder hens was below a year earlier.

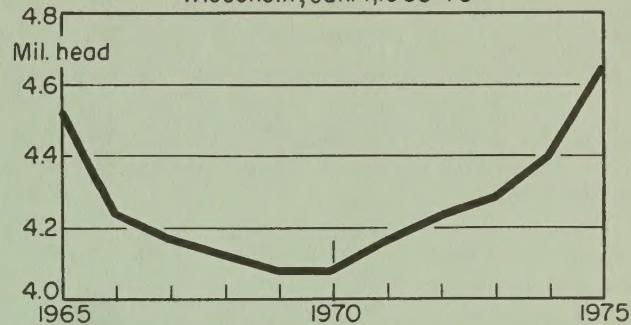
All cattle and calves totaled 4,640,000 on January 1, 1975, up more than 5 percent from a year ago. This was the fifth consecutive year that cattle numbers increased and they exceeded the previous high of 4,515,000 on January 1, 1965.

Both milk and beef cows increased from January 1 last year. Milk cows that have calved numbered 1,810,000, a gain of about 1 percent from a year earlier. Beef cows that have calved totaled 345,000 on January 1, up 11 percent from the previous year. Milk and beef replacement heifers weighing 500 pounds or more were also higher than a year ago. Steers weighing 500 pounds and over showed a sharp increase of 22 percent from January 1 last year but heifers and bulls of that weight category were fewer than a year earlier. Heifers, steers, and bulls under 500 pounds were up 14 percent from January 1, 1974.

All sheep and lambs on Wisconsin farms January 1 totaled 105,000, down 6 percent from a year ago. Stock sheep were 6,000 less than the previous year and there were 1,000 fewer sheep and lambs on feed.

All chickens on Wisconsin farms December 1, 1974 were slightly below a year earlier and turkey breeder hens were down more than 16 percent.

ALL CATTLE and CALVES Wisconsin, Jan. 1, 1965-75



The 1,400,000 hogs and pigs on Wisconsin farms December 1 were 11 percent less than the previous year and a record low for that date.

The total value of all cattle, hogs, sheep and lambs, chickens, and turkey breeder hens was 38 percent below a year earlier due to substantial declines for cattle, calves, hogs, and pigs.

Number and Value of Livestock, January 1 Wisconsin

Class of Livestock	Number		Farm value per head		Farm value	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
	1,000 head	Dollars		1,000 dollars		
Cows and heifers that have calved	2,108	2,155	—	—	—	—
Beef cows	312	345	—	—	—	—
Milk cows	1,796	1,810	—	—	—	—
Heifers 500 pounds and over	964	956	—	—	—	—
For beef cow replacement	101	107	—	—	—	—
For milk cow replacement	700	710	—	—	—	—
Other heifers	163	139	—	—	—	—
Steers 500 pounds and over	326	399	—	—	—	—
Bulls 500 pounds and over	48	46	—	—	—	—
Heifers, steers, and bulls under 500 pounds	954	1,084	—	—	—	—
All cattle and calves	4,400	4,640	395.00	230.00	1,738,000	1,067,200
Hogs and pigs 1/	1,575	1,400	60.50	44.50	95,288	62,300
Stock sheep and lambs	98	92	—	—	—	—
Ewes 1 year and older	78	74	—	—	—	—
Ewe lambs	13	13	—	—	—	—
Rams and wethers 1 year and older	4	3	—	—	—	—
Wether and ram lambs	3	2	—	—	—	—
Sheep and lambs on feed	14	13	—	—	—	—
All sheep and lambs	112	105	25.00	27.50	2,800	2,888
Hens and pullets of laying age	5,507	5,536	—	—	—	—
Other pullets	1,240	1,218	—	—	—	—
Other chickens	74	41	—	—	—	—
All chickens 1/ 2/	6,821	6,795	1.65	1.65	11,255	11,212
Turkey breeder hens 1/	91	76	9.50	10.00	865	760
Total value	—	—	—	—	1,848,208	1,144,360

United States

Beef cows	43,008	45,421	—	—	—	—
Milk cows	11,286	11,217	—	—	—	—
All other cattle	73,377	75,189	—	—	—	—
All cattle and calves	127,671	131,827	321.00	159.00	40,976,795	20,963,981
Hogs and pigs 1/	61,106	55,062	60.40	45.10	3,691,416	2,481,644
Sheep and lambs	16,394	14,538	32.50	30.40	533,366	442,271
Chickens 1/ 2/	412,503	382,793	1.62	1.71	669,564	652,799
Turkey breeder hens 1/ 3/	3,553	2,970	9.54	9.84	33,908	29,223
Total value	—	—	—	—	45,905,049	24,569,918

1/December 1 previous year. 2/Does not include commercial broilers. 3/U.S. totals are for 26 states with 10,000 or more breeder hens.

Cold Storage Stocks of Meat
United States

Commodity	Jan. 31, 1973	Jan. 31, 1974	Dec. 31, 1974	Jan. 31, 1975	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds				Percent
Beef:					
Frozen	370,020	456,522	384,185	402,798	- 12
In cure and cured	12,756	14,025	18,008	13,270	- 5
Total	382,776	470,547	402,193	416,068	- 12
Pork:					
Frozen	189,437	284,500	292,934	281,746	- 1
In cooler	13,634	15,607	13,058	12,441	- 20
Total	203,071	300,107	305,992	294,187	- 2
Other meats and meat products:					
Veal, frozen	15,580	12,706	13,546	14,516	+ 14
Lamb and mutton, frozen	14,258	12,465	13,692	12,093	- 3
Canned meats in cooler:					
Hams	49,597	57,213	52,718	61,246	+ 7
Other meats	16,615	15,861	14,726	13,955	- 12
Total, all meats	681,897	868,899	802,867	812,065	- 7

MEAT PRODUCTION CONTINUES ABOVE YEAR EARLIER

Production of red meat in Wisconsin's commercial slaughtering plants during December remained above a year earlier as it has since September 1973. Total output of meat in December was 11 percent more than the previous year, with beef production showing a gain of 7 percent and pork output of 15 percent.

Slaughtering plants in Wisconsin butchered 123,000 cattle in December, an increase of 14,000 from a year earlier. Average liveweight per head for December was 1,088 pounds, 56 pounds lighter than in December 1973.

The December hog slaughter of 293,000 was 40,000 above the previous year. Hogs averaged 245 pounds liveweight for December, 2 pounds less than a year earlier.

Calf slaughter in December numbered 31,500 compared with 20,200 in December 1973. At 131 pounds average liveweight for December, calves were 14 pounds lighter than a year earlier. The December sheep and lamb kill of 500 was up 100 from the previous year.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter

Area	Number		Liveweight		
	December		Change from last year	December	
	1973	1974		1973	1974
	1,000 head		Percent	Million pounds	
Cattle					
Wisconsin	109.0	123.0	+ 13	124.7	133.8
United States 1/ . . .	2,765.6	3,233.6	+ 17	2,937.8	3,310.6
Calves					
Wisconsin	20.2	31.5	+ 56	2.9	4.1
United States 1/ . . .	186.8	341.9	+ 83	42.7	90.6
Hogs					
Wisconsin	253.0	293.0	+ 16	62.5	71.8
United States 1/ . . .	6,287.9	6,671.7	+ 6	1,558.5	1,632.2
Sheep and lambs					
Wisconsin4	.5	+ 25	.038	.048
United States 1/ . . .	638.7	617.1	- 3	69.6	65.2

1/Excludes Alaska.

CHEESE STOCKS CONTINUE WELL ABOVE A YEAR AGO

Cold storage stocks of cheese in the Nation at the end of January were 31 percent greater than a year ago and the highest for that date since 1956. Stocks of Swiss cheese were down 3 percent from January 31, 1974 but supplies of American cheese in cold storage were up 38 percent and all other cheese stocks showed a gain of 5 percent.

Butter stocks in the Nation's cold storage facilities at the end of January were only 2 percent above a year earlier. Government stocks of butter totaled nearly 15 million pounds, up 14 percent from January 31, 1974.

Cold Storage Stocks of Butter and Cheese

Commodity	Jan. 31, 1973	Jan. 31, 1974	Jan. 31, 1975	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			
UNITED STATES				
Butter	109,918	51,380	52,529	+ 2
Cheese, American	262,854	299,757	413,139	+ 38
Cheese, Swiss	8,120	14,863	14,441	- 3
Cheese, all other	53,665	52,130	54,620	+ 5
Cheese, total	324,639	366,750	482,200	+ 31
	WISCONSIN			
Butter	3,303	1,191	3,447	+ 189
Cheese, American	171,071	171,316	226,162	+ 32
	GOVERNMENT STOCKS*			
Butter	87,587	13,080	14,864	+ 14
Cheese, American	149	439	1,167	+ 166

*Included in above totals.

Manufacturers' Stocks of Other Dairy Products
United States

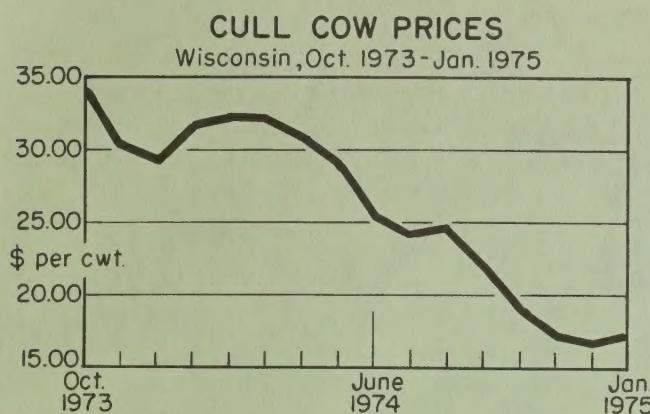
Commodity	Dec. 31, 1972	Dec. 31, 1973	Dec. 31, 1974	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			
Dried whole milk	3,351	5,377	6,419	+ 19
Dried skim milk	38,724	75,661	134,712	+ 78
Dried buttermilk	2,717	5,715	5,111	- 11
Condensed milk and evaporated milk (case goods) 1/ . . .	74,698	69,175	79,168	+ 14

1/Combined to avoid disclosing individual plant operations.

1974 MILK PRODUCTION SLIGHTLY UNDER 1973

Wisconsin dairy herds produced 18,362 million pounds of milk in 1974, a decline of less than 1 percent from 1973. Milk production during 1974 was below the previous year for all months except August, September, and October. Output per cow averaged 10,195 pounds for 1974, a small gain from the 1973 average. The annual average number of milk cows on Wisconsin farms during 1974 was 1,801,000, a drop of 9,000 from a year earlier. Wisconsin produced 16 percent of the Nation's milk supply in 1974.

Total milk production in the Nation during 1974 was 115.4 billion pounds, about the same as in 1973. Output per cow for 1974 was up almost 2 percent from the previous year but the annual average number of milk cows on farms during 1974 was a record low. However, the decline in cow numbers during 1974 was the smallest since 1953.



Calves continued to decline for the 11th consecutive month and were at their lowest level since December 1967. Calves averaged \$28.00 a hundredweight in mid-January, down \$2.20 from the previous month and \$22.60 under a year ago.

Milk cows for herd replacements averaged \$425.00 each in January, the lowest price in three years. Milk cows declined \$15.00 from December to January and were \$180.00 below last year.

Hogs averaged \$37.90 a hundredweight for mid-January, a decline of 10 cents from a month earlier and \$1.80 less than January 1974.

Sheep increased 20 cents from December to January but at \$5.50 a hundredweight were less than half of a year ago. Lambs averaged \$34.50 as of January 15, a gain of 40 cents from the previous month but down 50 cents from last year.

Turkeys averaged 38 cents a pound liveweight in January, their best price since November 1973. Turkeys were up 2 cents from December and 6 cents higher than January 1973. The mid-January egg price of 49.6 cents a dozen was nearly 3 cents below a month earlier and more than 15 cents under last year.

Corn prices dropped for the third month in a row. Corn averaged \$3.09 a bushel as of mid-January, down 22 cents from December and 49 cents below the peak reached in October 1974. A year ago corn prices averaged \$2.58 a bushel.

Prices Received by Wisconsin Farmers

Commodity	Unit	Jan. 15, 1973	Jan. 15, 1974	Dec. 15, 1974	Jan. 15, 1975
Dollars					
Milk cows	Head	485.00	605.00	440.00	425.00
Steers and heifers	Cwt.	35.40	38.50	29.80	30.70
Cows	Cwt.	26.10	31.40	16.50	16.80
Calves	Cwt.	48.10	50.60	30.20	28.00
Hogs	Cwt.	30.30	39.70	38.00	37.90
Sheep	Cwt.	7.20	11.10	5.30	5.50
Lambs	Cwt.	28.60	35.00	34.10	34.50
Chickens 1/	Lb.	.100	.165	.130	.120
Turkeys	Lb.	.240	.320	.360	.380
Eggs	Doz.	.470	.650	.523	.496
Corn	Bu.	1.30	2.58	3.31	3.09
Wheat	Bu.	2.17	5.18	4.26	3.85
Oats	Bu.	.89	1.46	1.59	1.50
Soybeans	Bu.	3.85	5.66	6.91	6.12
Alfalfa hay, baled	Ton	37.00	32.00	37.00	37.00

1/Excludes broilers.

Oats declined 9 cents from December to January but at \$1.50 a bushel was 4 cents above the previous year. Wheat fell 41 cents a bushel from December to January. At \$3.85 a bushel in mid-January, wheat was \$1.33 lower than a year ago.

Soybeans averaged \$6.12 a bushel as of January 15, a decline of 79 cents from a month earlier. Soybeans have dropped nearly \$2.00 a bushel in the past three months but were 46 cents above January last year.

Baled alfalfa hay remained at \$37.00 a ton in mid-January but was \$5.00 higher than a year earlier.

FEEDER PIG PRICES INCREASE IN PAST QUARTER

Feeder pig prices increased in Wisconsin during the past quarter. Wisconsin farmers reported paying an average of \$23.60 in January for a feeder pig averaging 41 pounds. This was \$5.40 more than in October 1974 but well below a year ago when prices averaged \$30.70 for a feeder pig averaging 40 pounds.

Wisconsin Feeder Pig Prices and Weights 1/

Year	January	April	July	October
Dollars per head				
1965	10.50	12.10	13.00	15.15
1966	20.65	20.00	16.60	16.30
1967	14.50	14.75	15.20	14.90
1968	13.70	15.40	15.10	15.20
1969	14.00	16.40	17.80	19.00
1970	21.50	24.50	18.80	12.60
1971	9.35	12.05	12.80	14.30
1972	18.50	21.70	23.30	23.50
1973	24.80	30.90	34.50	32.10
1974	30.70	27.60	17.20	18.20
1975	23.60			
Pounds per head				
1965	42	40	40	40
1966	41	40	40	41
1967	42	41	41	41
1968	42	40	41	41
1969	41	41	41	41
1970	41	39	40	40
1971	41	40	40	41
1972	41	40	40	40
1973	41	40	40	40
1974	40	39	40	41
1975	41			

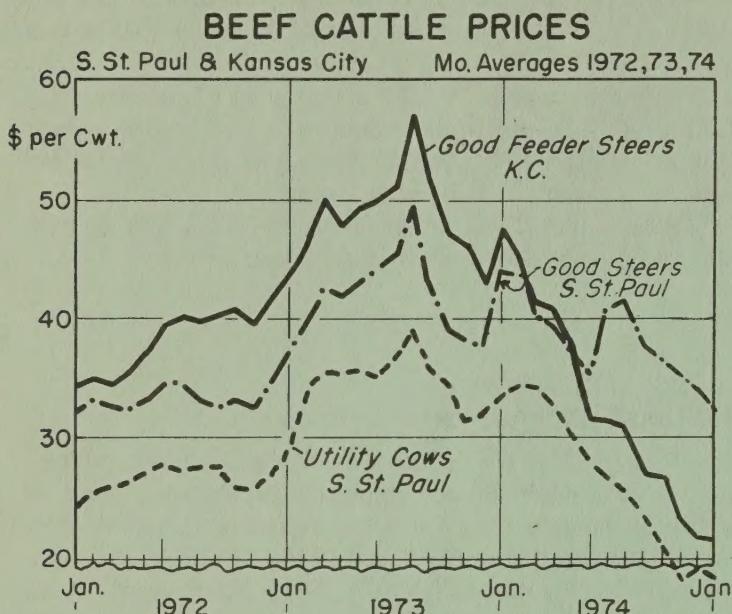
1/Prices paid by farmers and weights are average for the month as reported by Wisconsin Crop Correspondents.

BEEF MARKET DOWN

Prices of good grade fed steers at St. Paul and feeder steers at Kansas City declined during January as did utility cows at St. Paul. Good grade fed steers weighing between 900-1100 pounds averaged \$32.91 a hundredweight at the St. Paul market in January, down \$1.04 from the previous month and \$11.40 under a year ago.

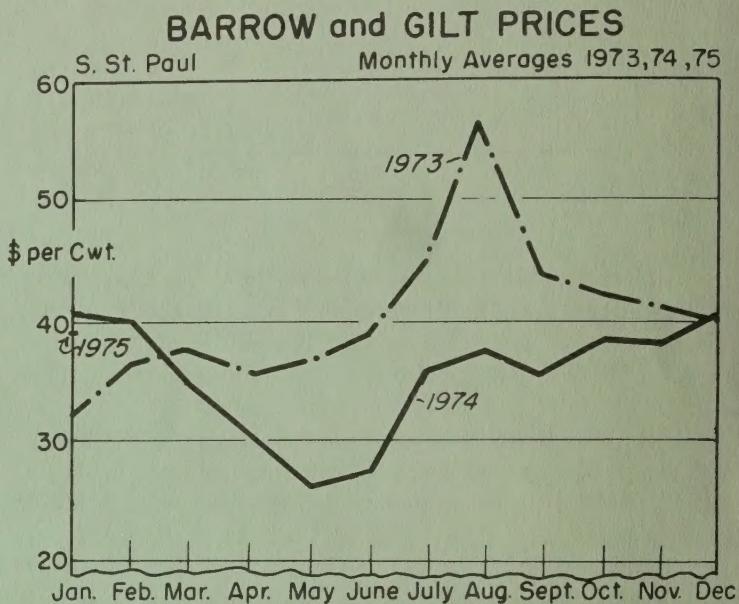
Utility grade cows averaged \$18.16 a hundredweight at St. Paul in January, a decline of 80 cents from December and \$15.44 below the previous year. Good grade feeder steers weighing between 600-700 pounds averaged \$21.75 a hundredweight at Kansas City during January, down 39

cents from December and less than half of the January 1974 price of \$47.81 a hundredweight.



BARROWS AND GILTS LOWER

Prices of barrows and gilts at the St. Paul market averaged \$39.01 a hundredweight in January. This was a decline of \$1.05 from December and \$1.67 under a year ago. The market showed a slight recovery in the last week of January.



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